



## Grand Computers Club History

### 2021

The year 2021 did not start out like any other year. This was the lockdown year because of the COVID pandemic. Our first General Meeting of the year (via Zoom) was held on January 6<sup>th</sup> and was chaired by our Vice President, Barb Vivian as I was quarantined to my home until February due to illness. We had our first Board Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom as the Club (as well as most of Grand) was closed due to the pandemic.

All subsequent meetings and classes were held via Zoom until September of 2021 when the Club was allowed to open for restricted use. Despite the lockdown, we still conducted all our meetings (General, Board and Coffee Chat via Zoom) and continued life as normal (or close to it). Tech Help continued as usual but was done via Zoom. We became very proficient in using the Zoom breakout rooms to solve each member's issue.

A major issue facing the club was member registrations. Since the Club was officially closed, many snowbirds (our Canadian members were prohibited from travelling) did not make the trip to Arizona that winter. Subsequently, our member registration plummeted from a high of 1800 in 2020 to 588 in February of 2021.

We still offered over 50 classes during the winter session of 2021 thanks to the efforts of Marie Frasca in coordinating the sign in procedures for the Zoom application and registration for the various classes. The instructors worked with Marie to conduct the most efficient class schedule that was available.

By October we were able to open the Club for general use and we did conduct some of the classes in our classroom. Our membership jumped up to 994 as members were starting to slowly return. During the Fall session of 2021, we conducted a total of 171 class either in person or via Zoom. This remarkable achievement was the result of the efforts of Marie Frasca and the instructor cadre.

As December rolled around our membership jumped to 1093. The pandemic hurt us but we were on the road to recovery.

## **Club accomplishments for 2021**

- Proliferated the use of remote online meetings using the Zoom video conferencing program in order to avoid personal contact due to the risk of contracting COVID-19. As a result, the club had been able to continue with all the club and SIG meetings and educational classes, despite any lockdown.
- Expanded the use of Little Bytes to become more of a mini newsletter with graphics, articles of interest and links to online technical articles, in addition to the traditional listing of the coming week's events.
- On November 13, we hosted a Welcome Back event for all out members and volunteers that were instrumental in keeping the Club going during the lockdown. Barb Vivian and her team did an outstanding job of hosting this event where a total of 79 members attended to reconnect with old friends after the lockdown.
- During the Fall session we introduced two new classes dealing with the upgrade to Windows 11 and MacOS Monterey. Both of these classes were well received by our members.

Board of Directors for 2021: President – Bob Babicke; Vice President – Barb Vivian; Secretary – Joan Hendricks; Treasurer – Debbie Meyer; Monitor Director – Susan Lucas; Technical Director – Ted Gray; Education Director – Marie Frasca; Membership Director – Nancy Collins; Tech Helper Director – Dan Wallen; Past President – Rich Gorczyca.